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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 15 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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RELEASE DENIED☐ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B6

MAR 1982

EXCISE

Dear Ms. Igoe:

This is in reference to the eight issues which you asked Jim Ward, Director of our Citizens Emergency Center to look into during his recent trip to San Salvador. This letter provides a written record of the information which Mr. Ward provided you and Congresswoman Roukema's office by telephone on February 5, 1982.

(1) You had inquired as to what active steps the Embassy can take to reach the author or authors of the first two letters which were received. As we have pointed out in the past, there are few active steps the Embassy can reasonably take to reach the author of either or both of the first two letters. The most logical approach is already being followed; namely, to run the family's ad and to make it as easy as possible for whomever might wish to contact the Embassy. Consul George Lannon assured Mr. Ward that there is a scenario in place that would steer any such individual to him quietly and promptly.

(2) Regarding the role being played by Police Chief Anula (sic) in the investigation, Consul Lannon explained that the police chief's name is actually Lopez Nuila, and that he is head of the National Police and has no jurisdiction over the Hacienda Police. Consul Lannon pointed out that although the letters' existence has been made public, the fact that they mention the Hacienda Police has not been released. The Embassy believes that it is best this not be done as long as there is any chance of the letters having validity. Regarding the current investigation, Consul Lannon explained that although the police are not closing the case, and the Embassy constantly reminds them of its interest, they have no active leads to follow at present.

(3) You raised the possible involvement of the Sheraton's Assistant Manager in a conspiracy. The Embassy has no reason to believe that the Assistant Manager, or for that

Ms. Donna Igoe,

[redacted] B6

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matter anyone working at the Sheraton at that time; was involved in any way with John's disappearance. Given the habits of many newsmen in San Salvador, it is likely that the Assistant Manager did not think it all that strange that John had not used his room.

(4) The Embassy has no knowledge of any statement made by President Duarte to Salvadoran Ambassador to the U.S., Rivas-Gallont, about John's case.

(5) You asked for a status report on the progress being made in checking with the Mayor and Justice of the Peace on the third letter. The Embassy, as of the date of Jim Ward's visit, had finished checking the records regarding the disposition of remains as outlined in the third letter, and had already spoken with the Mayor and Justice of the Peace named in the letter. As you know, no positive information has developed.

(6) We are still working with our Embassy in Honduras in order to elicit information from the person who claimed to be the writer of the first letter, or at least connected with it.

(7) As we have explained in the past, there is no practical way of verifying the claims that your brother wrote unspecified words on a cell wall of the Hacienda Police. The Hacienda Police have several cells or cell blocks in the area. There are numerous cells in the main Hacienda headquarters and there would be no way of knowing if we had seen every cell or that information had not been removed prior to any visit.

(8) In response to your final question, the Embassy has briefed the International Red Cross representatives in the area on John's disappearance. The Embassy does not believe the letters should be turned over to the Red Cross. They believe this could very possibly result in leakage of the specific contents of the letters.

In closing, let me assure you of our continued concern and interest in solving your brother's disappearance.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Bane
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Overseas Citizens Services

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H in lieu of SY-1 (E)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

EXCISE

OFFICE OF SECURITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
12 MAR 1982
To
SAS

MEMORANDUM TO: A/SY - Marvin L. Garrett, Acting

FROM: CA - Diego C. Asencio

SUBJECT: SY Assistance in the Case of John J. Sullivan

This memorandum is to request assistance from the L.A. field office of SY in pursuing a lead on the John J. Sullivan case.

John J. Sullivan, a free-lance journalist, was reported missing from his room at the San Salvador Sheraton on December 28, 1980. Since that time, in spite of considerable efforts by AmEmbassy San Salvador and the Government of El Salvador, his disappearance remains a mystery. The case is still very much an active one and has attracted considerable media and Congressional attention. The RSO in San Salvador has been of assistance to the consular section of the Embassy in this case and the SY Special Assignments staff here in the Department has been helpful in arranging for handwriting analysis.

Attached is a copy of a telegram recently received from AmEmbassy San Salvador. In pursuing this lead, we have only been able to determine that the address does exist and that there is no telephone listed at all for Apartment [redacted]. We have, however, obtained telephone numbers for two other apartments and the names under which these phones are listed. They are as follows: [redacted] To date, however, we have been unable to even verify the existence of [redacted] Given the present political significance of El Salvador, and the high media visibility of cases of Americans in El Salvador, it is particularly important that the Department do everything possible to resolve this case, or at a minimum shed some light on Sullivan's disappearance.

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For this reason, I would appreciate the assistance of the Office of Security in attempting to verify the existence of [redacted]. If he can be located, we would want someone to discuss the Sullivan case carefully with him in an effort to see if he can indeed provide any useful information. Since there is a very real possibility that [redacted] is a Salvadoran, it would probably be best to have him interviewed by someone fluent in Spanish.

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Both the Sullivan family and Congresswoman Roukema of New Jersey are already aware of the existence of this "mystery witness" although not of his identity. For this reason, we are under considerable pressure to track down this particular clue as rapidly as possible.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. Please feel free to contact Jim Ward, Director of our Citizens Emergency Center, at 632-5225 for any additional details you might need.

Attachment:
San Salvador 01541

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Department of State

TELEGRAM
5413

SAN SA 01541 242159Z

ACTION OPS-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 AMAD-01 /007 W
---------- 346120 242200Z /38

O 242130Z FEB 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8109

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 1541

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W: JOHN J. SULLIVAN

1. AN UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN CALLED THE EMBASSY EVENING FEB. 23 AND INFORMED US THAT INFORMATION ABOUT JOHN SULLIVAN'S KIDNAPPERS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM A [redacted] RESIDING AT [redacted] LOS ANGELS, CALIVORNIA [redacted] B6

2. WE CHECKED ZIP CODE & POST OFFICE DIRECTORY AND VERIFIED EXISTENCE OF [redacted] IN LOS ANGELES. B6

3. WE ARE UNSURE OF EXACT SPELLING OF NAME PROVIDED AS TELEPHONE CONNECTION WAS VERY BAD.

4. PLEASE REPORT IF ANYTHING DEVELOPS FROM THIS INFORMATION.
HINTON

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